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Short Subjects: News Reels

Glen McAninch

Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

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NEWS REELS

In 1987 the Alabama State Records Commission approved a Micrographics Laboratory Certification Program. Administered by the Records Management Division, the program will provide certification for state, county, and university micrographics labs as well as private vendors filming the public records of Alabama. The certification program is designed to make clear what the commission believes to be the acceptable minimum standards for producing long-term microfilm and to recognize the laboratories that meet these standards.

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The Alabama County Records Commission was replaced by a more expanded Local Government Records Commission through an act of the state legislature. The new commission can approve records retention schedules for all the units of local government, whereas the previous commission had authority for only county records. Appointments to the new body will be made before the end of 1987. The Director of the Alabama Department for Archives and History (ADAH), Ed Bridges, believes that the bill will "provide an excellent foundation for the ADAH local government program."

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The University of Alabama Archives is searching for someone from Kansas who is interested in acquiring an original copy of the first constitution of the State of Kansas. The university has contacted Wichita State in an attempt to swap a manuscript of equal value that would be appropriate to the collections of the university archives.

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The Records Center for the Florida Bureau of Archives and Records Management has created a computerized inventory system using Rbase System V. The system permits the entering and searching of records information, as well as the printing of reports, destruction notices, and bills for records storage and purchase of boxes. A copy of the user's manual, which thoroughly documents the system, is available from La Donna Wages, System Project Analyst, R. A. Gray Building, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0250.

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The City of Tampa, Florida received a grant of \$61,017 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to develop a city archives program. The city plans to locate, identify, and accession the city's archival records; review the city's records schedule and disposition requests to ensure the appropriate archival appraisal criteria were followed; and establish procedures for public awareness and use of the records.

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The Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County, Florida is compiling a biographical and historical record of early settlers. It is interested in receiving information about these pioneers. Anyone having information is asked to contact Martha Rogers, Laurel Hill, FL (904-652-4165), or Eileen McCall, Fort Walton Beach, FL (904-862-8388).

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The Florida Bureau of Archives and Records Management, which hosted the 1987 Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (SARC), honored Edward N. Johnson for his "contributions to the Florida Archives and Records Management Programs." The award was presented at the

SARC meeting by Florida Secretary of State George Firestone. Johnson is currently serving as Chairman of the Policy Board for the National Information Center for Local Government Records and as a member of the Florida State Historical Records Advisory Board.

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The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees has named the reading room in the special collections department of King Library-North in honor of Mary Breckenridge Patterson of Washington, D.C. Patterson is a member of the Kentucky Breckenridge family. She lived in Kentucky while working with the Frontier Nursing Service in the 1920s in Eastern Kentucky. The library hopes to set up a Breckenridge Kentucky Room in the future to serve as both a museum and a reading room.

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The Louisville Free Public Library of Louisville, Kentucky, has been awarded a subgrant of \$32,000 for the Major Urban Resource Library (MURL) project by the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives from Library Services and Construction Act Title I funds. Of the two Special Resource Collections to which MURL could be allocated, the library elected to strengthen its *Census on Microfilm, 1790-1910* holdings by purchasing all available census materials for the state of Virginia.

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The Georgia Department of Archives and History received \$48,230 from the NHPRC to convene a national meeting of the state coordinators for the NHPRC records program and to support meetings of the state coordinators' steering committee.

The Georgia Historical Society received \$88,340 from the NHPRC to arrange and describe the Central Georgia Railway collection.

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The University of Georgia Libraries has confirmed that rare books, maps and manuscripts are missing from its special collections. These materials, which could be valued at more than \$1 million, were discovered missing after an eighteenth century letter supposedly in the university's collection was offered to a Philadelphia dealer. Some missing materials were found in the home of former acting head of special collections when his home was searched in December of 1986. The case is currently pending in the Georgia courts.

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The Royston Involvement Project by Pupils for Lifting Economy and Society (RIPPLES) has harnessed the energy of sixth-grade students to save the two oldest buildings in downtown Royston, Georgia. Students wrote letters to the owners of the buildings encouraging restoration, and when the buildings were sold to new owners, the students helped restore the buildings and put them to new uses. For their efforts, the students received a National Public Service Award from the Secretary of Interior.

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In the spring of 1987, Georgia College, Milledgeville, Georgia, dedicated a room in the Ina Dillard Russell Library in honor of the late James C. Bonner, Professor Emeritus of History, Georgia College. The Bonner Room is a closed stack area containing the college archives; newspapers from the 1800s; business records from local companies; manuscript

collections; Georgia materials; and Dr. Bonner's collection of primary source documents, professional and personal correspondence, and memorabilia. Included in Dr. Bonner's primary source materials are original land grants, Civil War correspondence, business and personal correspondence of early Milledgeville residents, old photographs of Milledgeville and Baldwin County, and other materials of interest to scholars of nineteenth century Georgia.

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Central Piedmont Community College, Charlotte, North Carolina, is planning a two-year project to develop an archives and records management program. Central Piedmont, which will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1988, serves a yearly student population of approximately 50,000 in the greater Charlotte area. The project has been endorsed by the NHPRC.

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This summer the North Carolina State Archives opened its traveling exhibit on the state and the U.S. Constitution to the public. The exhibit was funded by Friends of the Archives and the N.C. Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution. The high quality facsimiles in the exhibit will be accompanied by a videotaped introduction and a complementary brochure. The opening of the exhibit was highlighted by an address by Acting Archivist of the United States, Frank Burke, on the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

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McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, received a grant from the NHPRC for \$56,410 for a two-year project to develop an archives

and records management program for the university. Founded in 1801, the University of South Carolina was the state's first institution of higher education and, by educating many of the state's most influential leaders, has had a significant impact on the course of its history.

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The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee, received \$3,000 from the NHPRC for consultation on establishing an archival program. The institution was founded as Chattanooga University in 1886 and is now the only state-supported university in southeastern Tennessee.

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The National Information Center for Local Government Records (NICLOG), which is administered by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), has received new leadership through new grants from the NHPRC and the Mellon Foundation. The grants have enabled the AASLH to hire Marilyn Ryall as NICLOG project director. Ms. Ryall has worked for the city of San Diego as its first records officer, for the California State Archives and the Federal Archives and Records Center in southern California. The Joint Committee that guides NICLOG has elected a new chair, H.G. Jones, the curator of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina Library.

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The Southeastern Archives and Records Conference (formerly the South Atlantic Archives and Records Conference or SAARC) was the featured regional in the September

1987 issue of the Society of American Archivists newsletter. The article noted that SAARC "was the first regional archival/records management association in the country."

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The Society of Alabama Archivists and the Society of Mississippi Archivists have joined forces in proposing to other states in the southeast that a Southern Archives Conference (SAC) be formed. The new organization would meet every other year beginning in 1988 and would be governed by a committee composed of the presidents and vice-presidents of the member organizations. Tennessee, Georgia, and Kentucky archivists are considering the proposal at their fall meetings.

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The NHPRC has funded the following historical editing projects in the southeast during 1987: Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, \$5,000 for *The Papers of Jane Addams*; University of South Carolina, Columbia, \$23,173 for *The Papers of John C. Calhoun*; The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Atlanta, Georgia, \$45,000 for *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.*; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, \$1,476 for *The Correspondence of James K. Polk*.

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The following universities in the southeast received National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grants to microfilm and catalog newspapers: Louisiana State University \$201,780 plus \$25,000 matching; University of Georgia \$417,441 plus \$50,000 matching, and the University of Kentucky \$274,942.